

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 30, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 17-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled from the application.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 5 as indicated above. Applicant submits that such an amendment should overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mastronardi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0208586; hereinafter "Mastronardi '568"). As indicated above, claim 15 has been canceled from the application. Consequently, the rejection of claim 15 is now moot.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Mastronardi '586 in view of Goudie et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0156764; hereinafter "Goudie"). As indicated above, claim 16 has been canceled from the application. Consequently, the rejection of claim 16 is now moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 8-14 and 17-19 have been allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amendment to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection. Since claim 5 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection, claims 5-7 should now be deemed allowable.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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